

Jesus' First Triumphal Entry (but *not* His last!)

John 12.9-19; Psalm 118.25-26; Zechariah 9.9-10

It's the week of Jesus' crucifixion, yet it begins with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the most publicly adulatory event of His life – and it was no accident. God choreographed it: The King was being rejected, but He would still be recognized, pointing to a yet future return to reign!

Jesus' First Triumphal Entry

- Contrasting responses to the raising of Lazarus (John 12.9-11)
- An event choreographed by God (see Mt. 21; Mk. 11; Lk. 19)
- A mighty throng hails their King! (John 12.12-18)
- Begrudging priests despair (John 12.19)

A Lesson: Leaders Determine the Fate of Nations

- What Jesus foresaw as He approached Jerusalem (Lk. 19.41-44)
- People hailed their king; leaders rejected Him; destruction followed.
- Pray for your leaders! (1 Tim. 2.1-4)...*and vote wisely.*

Jesus' Next Triumphal Entry!

- Zechariah 9.9-10: A prophecy fulfilled – but not completed!
- Gabriel's '70 Weeks' prophecy to Daniel (Dan. 9.24-27)
- 69 'weeks' to the coming of Messiah – then He is cut off!
- One more 'week' ...then He returns to reign! (Rev. 19.11-20.6)



1. This chart from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament* (Victor Books, 1989), page 1367, explains how Gabriel's prophecy of 483 years (69 "weeks" of years) from the decree being issued by Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus on May 5, 444 B.C. is fulfilled on the exact day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, on March 30, 33 A.D. Can you follow it?

The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars	
Jewish Calendar (360 days per year *)	Gregorian Calendar (365 days a year)
$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7)$ years = 483 years	444 B.C. to A.D. 33 = 476 years †
483 years	476 years
× 360 days	× 365 days
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173,880 days	173,740 days
	+ 116 days in leap years ‡
	+ 24 days (March 5–March 30)

	173,880 days

* Biblical "prophetic years" were 360 days. See Rev. 11.2-3; 12.6; 13.5.
 † Only 1 year between 1 BC and 1 AD makes this 476, not 477 years.
 ‡ $476 \div 4 = 119$, minus 3 centennial years (not divisible by 400) = 116.

2. Read Gabriel's entire prophecy to Daniel (Daniel 9.24-27). Some of this prophecy is obscure. For more clues to what the 70th week will entail, read Daniel 7, 12, Matthew 24, and Revelation 6-19! There is much here that we don't know, but much we can know! For the 'blessed hope' of the believer, read 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18!